

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /091 W
-----021578 050247Z /66

R 042151Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0155
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2636

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, PA, ES, GT, PBOR, BH
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INDICATIONS OF LIKELY OASGA STANDS OF
HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 103851

1. EMBASSY MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO
RAISE SUBJECT WITH FONMIN'S DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS MARIO MARROQUIN ON MAY 4.

2. MARROQUIN HAD IMPRESSION THAT ONLY COUNTRY CERTAIN TO BE
DISCUSSED AT OASGA WAS CHILE. HE HIMSELF IS AWAITING REPORT
OF IAHRC WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN WHAT, IF ANYTHING, MIGHT HAVE
BEEN SAID ABOUT GUATEMALA. HE IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT
GUATEMALA WILL NOT BE IN THE LIMELIGHT WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN
RIGHTS MATTERS. HE EXPECTS THERE WILL BE THE "USUAL DISCUSSIONS"
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE OASGA BUT SAID GUATEMALA WOULD TAKE NO
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LEADING ROLE. HE DID NOT FOCUS ON WHETHER GUATEMALA WOULD
SUPPORT AN ATTACK ON US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, BUT GAVE THE
IMPRESSION IT HAD NO SUCH INTENTION.

3. MARROQUIN SAID GOG'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN AT THE OASGA WAS
THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOME COUNTRIES, PRESUMABLY CARRIBBEANS,
WOULD TRY TO BRING UP BELIZE AS AN ISSUE AS THEY HAVE IN THE

PAST. GUATEMALA WOULD OF COURSE MAINTAIN ITS CUSTOMARY POSITION THAT THE OASGA IS NOT THE PROPER FORUM TO TAKE UP THE BELIZE PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT GOG'S PERCEPTION OF ITS COMPETING INTERESTS WILL IN FACT PERSUADE IT TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM THE FIRING LINE IN ANY HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE AT OASGA. ON THE ONE HAND, GOG OPPOSED REJECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS OF URUGUAY'S BID TO HOST OASGA, AND MAY ON THIS OCCASION SENSE SOME OBLIGATION TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH NEIGHBOR EL SALVADOR, IF NOT NICARAGUA. TUGGING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION IS OUR SENSE THAT COOLER HEADS IN GOG MAY BE COMING TO RECOGNIZE DISADVANTAGE OF GUATEMALA'S ASSOCIATION IN THE PUBLIC MIND WITH SOME OF HEMISPHERE'S WORST OFFENDERS. IN PAST CRITICISM OF US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES, MOREOVER, GOG HAS TAKEN CARE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN UNACCEPTABLE "UNILATERAL" AND PROPER "COLLECTIVE" APPROACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONTROVERSY. SHOULD ISSUE OF RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS FACTORS IN THE IFI'S COME UP, WE WOULD EXPECT GOG TO SIDE WITH CRITICS OF US POLICY. EVEN LOCAL SUPPORTERS OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES -- SUCH AS THE NEWSPAPER LA TARDE RECENTLY -- STOP SHORT OF ENDORSING THE INTRODUCTION OF "EXTRANEIOUS" FACTORS IN CONSIDERING INTERNATIONAL LOANS.
BOSTER

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